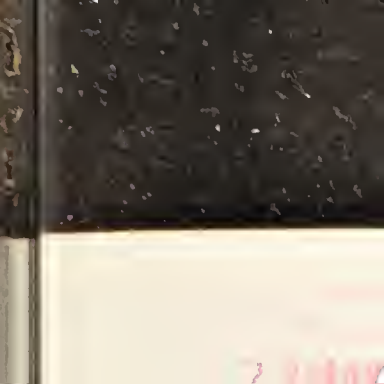
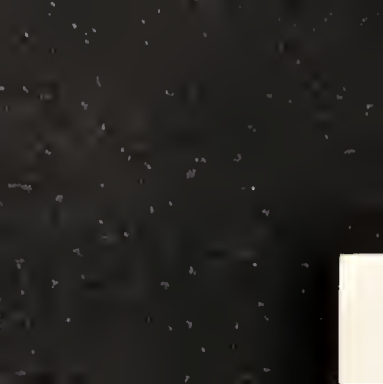








ANNUAL REPORT
on the
HEALTH OF THE RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT
of the
ISLE OF WIGHT.

County Hall,
Newport,
Isle of Wight.

To the Members of the Isle of Wight Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the health of the District for the year 1955.

The live birth rate has risen from 12.7 to 13.1.

The death rate has fallen from 13.4 to 12.9.

The infantile mortality Rate has risen from 22.02 to 25.8 but is still below the 1953 figure of 31.1.

The still birth rate has fallen from 17.3 to 12.7.

During the year there was an outbreak of measles involving 277 cases but there were no deaths.

Whooping cough accounted for 28 cases but there were again no deaths from this disease.

Five cases of poliomyelitis occurred but there were no deaths.

There were no deaths from infantile diarrhoea.

Two cases of food poisoning occurred but were not severe enough to require hospital treatment.

The number of new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis fell from 25 to 11, while the new cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis fell from 7 to 2.

Of the total of 13 new cases of tuberculosis notified, 5 were cases transferred from the mainland.

During the year 327 samples of milk were examined for tubercle bacilli, and 3 were found to be positive. In addition 34 of the samples examined were found to be infected with *brucella abortus*.

In considering the preventive factors in heart disease one must evaluate the causes, so far as is known, and apply such knowledge to preventive measures.

Heart disease due to high blood pressure is commonest in middle age and later, and there is very little difference in the sex incidence.

Of all the known factors in relation to the causation of heart disease associated with high blood pressure heredity plays perhaps the most important part.

Often many members of one family in the course of a few generations have shown various manifestations of the disease. As we are ignorant of the way in which heredity acts, although we are sure of its great significance, we are unable, at the moment to do anything about it.

There is, however, one factor in the production of the disease about which something can be done. Overeating and obesity are frequently associated with the disease. A diet over-rich in food value during and after middle age is a great potential danger. Surely here is one aspect of the cause that can and should be controlled.

It is less easy to control another known and equally potent cause of this disease, nervous strain. A life of high nervous tension favours the aggravation if not its inception. On the other hand physical effort and constant laborious work are probably protective and not aggravating factors.

Disease of the coronary arteries, the arteries that feed the muscles of the heart, is not only a very frequent and important cause of heart trouble near the end of the life cycle, but it also cripples and kills, all too frequently, in the prime of life, indeed even in youth. It is very doubtful if the coronary disease of advanced old age can ever be controlled but it is not too much to expect that distinct progress will be made in the prevention of coronary disease in the young and middle aged.

Although heart disease due to other causes has remained static more or less, since 1930, the incidence of coronary heart disease has been on the increase.

The actual cause of the disease process in the walls of the arteries feeding the heart is not known. Diet, rich in animal fats, overwork, high blood pressure, infection, heredity, etc., are all factors which have been considered to play a part.

Certainly, one of the most important factors is stress, as I emphasised in the comment on psychosomatic disorders in my last annual report.

It has been proved to the satisfaction of many medical experts that there is a correlation between excessive cigarette smoking and lung cancer. The most important point is that smoking should never commence. Attention therefore should be focussed on the young. If a young person never begins the smoking habit he will never feel at a loss without it. It is a fact that very many children of school age smoke cigarettes. This could and should be stopped forthwith.

Tobacco does not cause actual heart disease but in susceptible persons it may cause palpitations and a rapid heart beat. In most individuals and especially those suffering from high blood pressure the blood pressure is appreciably raised. In certain people with coronary heart disease the use of tobacco has been known to precipitate or to aggravate angina pectoris.

Many of the medical grounds for pressing housing priorities are obvious, such as open tuberculosis, but priorities attempted on less tangible grounds are equally important and involve, in many cases, the health of a greater number of individuals. One must recognise the adverse strain which must arise where a home is unwillingly shared and give weight to priorities advised on psychological as distinct from psychiatric grounds. It is probably true to say that less damage is done and less priority is therefore required in a home which is overcrowded or possesses a case of severe illness but where there is also love, than in a household where everyone is at odds.

Problem families continue to occupy the attention of the health department. A great deal of time, energy and patience is devoted to these cases and the Council have been most co-operative in the often very difficult task of meeting their housing needs.

It is depressing to see the amount of neglect of dental hygiene in school children, especially among children in their teens. In a great many cases the children admit to never brushing their teeth at all.

I must thank the Chairman and members of the Public Health and Housing Committees, the Public Health Inspectors and all members of the Public Health Department for their help and co-operation during the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman. Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN MILLS,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Population (Registrar General's figures)	17,850
Area (in acres)	58,127
Number of habitable houses end of 1955	6,510
Rateable Value	£126,528
Sum represented by a penny rate	£500

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Live birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	13.1
Comparative factor	1.16
Comparative Birth rate	15.2
Still Birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still births)	12.7
Crude Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	12.9
Comparative factor	0.70
Comparative Death rate	9.03
Death rate from Puerperal causes per 1,000 (live and still births)	Nil
Death rate of infants under one year of age :—	
All infants per 1,000 live births	25.8
Legitimate infants per 1,000 live births	27.1
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	49

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS, 1955.

Medical Officer of Health :—

John Mills, M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.S. (Eng.),
L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspectors :—

C. V. Smith, M.R.San.I.
L. J. Lewis, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

EAST WIGHT.

WATER.

Apart from some shortage owing to heavy demand in camping areas of Bembridge, there has been no difficulty with water supply in the area.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

Public conveniences are provided at Bembridge, Brading and Niton. All are small and are maintained by part-time attendants. Owing to heavy peak demands in the Bembridge conveniences, arrangements were made for additional visits to be made by the attendants. The Brading conveniences were subject to a certain amount of abuse—particularly on the occasion of late night dances in the hall adjacent.

During the year the erection of public conveniences at Godshill was put in hand but the premises were not ready for use by the end of the year.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The sewered areas of Chillerton, Godshill, Niton and Whitwell have continued to function normally.

Bembridge.

The Bembridge sewerage system gave rise to continued anxiety and further serious leakages occurred in The Point outfall. A temporary extension, extending some 70 yards in the direction of the harbour channel, was laid. The main outfall at Ethel Point continued to function but was frequently surcharged at times of heavy rain, when the lower manholes overflowed on to the highway.

During the summer months a number of complaints were received of the discharge of sewage on to the foreshore from the Ethel Point outfall. Investigation showed that these

complaints were justified, but as far as our records show, this was the first occasion that confirmation of such discharge was obtained.

The Council's consultants have prepared a scheme for closing down The Point outfall and diverting all discharge from that point to the Ethel Point outfall. The scheme was before the Minister and a public enquiry was held towards the end of the year.

In view of the complaint of sewage discharging on to the foreshore, a series of float tests were made before the enquiry was held. These tests confirmed that with a N.-N.E. wind there was a period of about two hours in each tide cycle during which sewage may wash inshore.

The result of the ministry enquiry had not been received at the end of the year.

Brading.

The obsolete sewage disposal beds at Brading were put out of service and a complete new works constructed on the site.

Apse Heath.

A scheme for the replacement of the sewage disposal works at Apshe Heath was approved and work of reconstruction put in hand.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

The refuse collection service continued to function in a satisfactory manner. The service covers the whole district. A weekly collection is given in Brading and Bembridge, and a fortnightly collection in all other parts of the district.

	<i>No. of Vehicles.</i>	<i>Refuse Collected, Cubic yds.</i>	<i>No. of Vehicle Loads.</i>	<i>Total Mileage.</i>	<i>Disposal of Refuse.</i>
East Wight	One full time in Bembridge and Brading One spends half time in East Wight, half time in West Wight	No figures	910	15,750	1.—Tip at Yaverland, Brading 2.—Tip at Bleakdown, Godshill

CESS PIT EMPTYING SERVICE.

East Wight.

The Council do not own a cesspit emptier but hire a machine when required from Ryde, Sandown or Ventnor. A routine service was not in operation but pits were emptied upon application :—

1. If they had not been emptied during the past twelve months.
2. If they were overflowing or likely to overflow in the near future.

Total number of cesspits emptied—171.

HOSTELS.

East Wight.

Y.H.A. Hostel, Whitwell. Main Water. Drainage to cesspool. Public refuse collection.

HUTTED CAMPS.

East Wight.

Nil.

HOUSING.

East Wight.

SCHEDULE.

Parish			Council Houses completed 1955	Under construction 31st December, 1955
Bembridge	...	...	14	6
Brading	...	...	4	6
Chale	...	...	—	—
Gatcombe	...	...	2	—
Godshill	...	...	—	—
Newchurch	...	...	—	—
Niton	...	...	—	—
South Arreton	...	...	—	—

Slum Clearance.

A Sub-Committee of the Public Health and General Purposes Committee visited a number of houses for consideration under the Slum Clearance Scheme but definite action had not been taken by the end of the year.

One large house—"East View," Brading—incapable of being made fit at a reasonable cost was purchased by the Council, completely reconstructed and converted into two separate dwellings each with two living rooms, three bedrooms, bath, and W.C. at a total cost of approximately £2,600. This action has saved demolition and provided two good modern houses.

Improvement Grants.

During the year 33 applications were approved and 38 grants were made.

In no cases have improvement grants been applied to houses that would otherwise have been included in the Slum Clearance Scheme.

Grants have made possible the provision of modern facilities to many premises that would otherwise remain below standard.

WORK OF SANITARY STAFF.

East Wight.

Total number of visits of inspection made	...	...	1741
Houses inspected	...	...	134
Houses re-inspected	...	...	178
Cowstables and dairies	...	...	6
Food preparing premises	...	...	112
Meat and other foods inspection	...	...	67
Drains and sewers	...	...	236
Water supplies	...	...	24
Refuse collection	...	...	102
Various	...	...	563
New buildings and alterations	...	...	319

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937, Parts I and VIII administered by the District Council:

East Wight.

1. INSPECTIONS (Part I of the Act).

For purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	82	39	1	—
ii) Factories not included in i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	31	9	2	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	113	48	3	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they are reckoned as two, three or more “cases.”

<i>Particulars</i>				<i>Number of cases in which defects were found</i>	
				<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	...			2	2
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
Unsuitable or Defective	...			1	1
Total	...	...	...	3	3
				—	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT (Outwork— Sections 110 and 111).

Nil.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

The following table shows the amount of unsound food dealt with during the year:—

Home Killed Meat	...	...	...	24 lb.
Imported Meat	...	...	...	19 lb.
Tinned Fruit	...	...	...	52 lb.
Tinned Eggs	...	...	...	-
Canned Meat	...	...	...	186 lb.
Fish	...	...	...	14 stone
Other Goods	...	...	...	21 lb.

WEST WIGHT.

WATER.

The rainfall for the year was 28.13 inches, but the summer months were particularly dry, resulting in an average water consumption for the West Wight area of 305,600 gallons per day, compared with an average consumption for the previous year of 286,700 gallons per day.

44 samples of both treated and raw water supplies were examined, of which 68 per cent were classified as satisfactory.

The Water Board took over the Alum Bay supply from the Military Authority during the year and several properties previously relying upon private supplies were connected to the system.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

Public conveniences are provided at Freshwater Bay, Freshwater, Totland, Colwell and at Alum Bay (by arrangement with The Needles Hotel).

Since the closing down of the British Railways in the West Wight the lavatory accommodation at Freshwater Railway Station has been out of use. These lavatories have now been leased to the Council, improved, and opened to the public.

All conveniences are well maintained by a full-time attendant.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The sewerage scheme for Shorwell Village is approaching completion and it is expected that the disposal works will be ready and in operation early in 1956.

The old sewage pumping station at Freshwater Bay which is operated by a compressed air pipe line from the main pumping station at Freshwater, about $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles distant, is now being replaced by a new electrically driven pumping plant which should prove more efficient and economical when put in operation early in 1956.

In Yarmouth work has started on improvements to the combined sewage system to alleviate flooding and to provide a more suitable point for discharge into the Solent.

The sewage flow will be diverted from the old outfall at the Quay into a new 15 inch diameter sewer sea outfall to be laid parallel with Yarmouth Pier for a distance of 550 feet from the shore.

A new 12 inch diameter storm water overflow pipe will be laid from the corner of St. James' Street and Tennyson Road across reclaimed land to discharge into the River Yar.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

There is a weekly collection of refuse in the parishes of Freshwater, Totland and Yarmouth, and a fortnightly collection in all other parishes in the West Wight. Refuse is deposited by controlled tipping on the land reclamation area on the east bank of the River Yar estuary at Yarmouth and at Churchill's Quarry. The increasing popularity of the West Wight as a seaside holiday resort makes a very heavy demand on this service during the summer months.

	<i>No. of Vehicles</i>	<i>Refuse Collected. Cubic yds.</i>	<i>No. of Vehicle Loads</i>	<i>Total Mileage</i>	<i>Disposal of Refuse</i>
West Wight	One 18 cub. yd. used for Freshwater Totland, and Yar- mouth One other shared with East Wight	13,800 approx.	1,300	11,000	Yarmouth Land Reclamation Area and Churchill's Quarry

CESSPIT EMPTYING SERVICE.

Premises are served by a cesspool emptying lorry on hire from Ryde Borough and Ventnor U.D.C. Although the

demand for this service is increasing, it does not yet warrant the Council purchasing their own vehicle to do the work.

Total number of cesspits emptied—104.

HOSTELS.

West Wight.

Weston Manor Hostel, Totland. Mains water supply. main drainage, weekly collection of refuse.

HUTTED CAMPS.

Solent Riviera Camping Site, Thorness. 36 caravans. W.C.s and wash basins to sewage disposal plant. Mains water supply. Refuse destroyed by incineration, and periodically collected by Council's vehicle.

Mountfield Caravan Park, Norton Green, Freshwater. 12 caravans. W.C.s and wash basins with drainage to Council's sewer. Mains water supply. Weekly collection of refuse by Council.

HOUSING.

SCHEDULE.

Parish			Council Houses completed 1955	Under construction 31st December, 1955
Brighthstone	...	...	—	—
Calbourne	...	...	—	—
Freshwater	...	...	—	—
Shalfleet	...	...	—	5
Shorwell	...	...	—	—
Totland	...	...	16	8
Yarmouth	...	...	—	—

Private houses erected in East and West Wight—46.

The majority of the small dwellings in the district are let to tenants at rents controlled by the Rent Restrictions Acts or are tied agricultural cottages let at a nominal rental.

These rents have no economic relation to present day building costs for repairs and general maintenance, neither do they in many cases represent a fair proportion of the total family income which should be allocated for providing home and shelter.

Notices served under the Public Health Acts and Housing Acts have to be confined to absolute essentials ; anything more, frequently results in the property being offered to the Council by the owner at liquidation price.

The Council advance loans on mortgage under the Small Dwellings Acquisition Act and many prudent wage earners are taking advantage of the favourable terms to own their homes. Their next step is to apply for an improvement Grant to provide a bathroom, indoor sanitation, satisfactory drainage, hot water supply, electric light and power, and other essentials for the health, comfort and well being of the family. 32 applications for Improvement Grants were received during the year and with one exception grants up to 50 per cent of the approved estimates were made.

WORK OF THE SANITARY STAFF.

West Wight.

Total number of visits of inspection made	...	...	1817
Houses inspected	...	...	118
Houses re-inspected	...	...	172
Cowstables and dairies	...	...	15
Food preparing premises	...	...	140
Meat and other foods inspection	...	...	36
Drains and sewers	...	...	270
Water supplies	...	...	11
Refuse collection	...	...	242
Various	...	...	112
New buildings and alterations	...	...	398

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937, Parts I and VIII administered by the District Council.

West Wight.

1. INSPECTIONS (Part I of the Act).

For purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	60	29	1	—
ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	25	10	2	—
iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	85	39	3	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they are reckoned as two, three or more "cases.")

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>No of cases in which defects were found</i>	
	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	2	2
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	1	1
Sanitary conveniences (S.7) unsuitable or defective ...	2	1
Total	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>

PART VIII OF THE ACT (Outwork—Sections 110 and 111).

Number of out-workers 148.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

The following table shows the amount of unsound food dealt with during the year :—

Home Killed Meat	...	...	...	109 lb.
Imported Meat	...	...	...	11 lb.
Bacon	...	...	...	120 lb.
Turkeys	...	...	...	24 lb.
Canned Meat	...	...	...	38 lb.

FOOD AND DRUGS (MILK AND DAIRIES) ACTS, 1944.

Number of samples taken for T.B. during the year						
1955	...	...	...	...	...	327
Number of samples found to be positive	...	...				3
Number of samples in which Brucella Abortus was isolated	...	...	...	...	...	34

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

<i>Disease.</i>					<i>Total cases notified.</i>	<i>Cases admitted to hospital.</i>
Measles	...	...	...	...	277	3
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	14	1
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	2	—
Meningococcal Infection	...	...	...	...	—	—
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	1	—
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	6	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	28	—
Acute Inf. Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	—	—
Acute Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	...	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	5	5
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	—	—
Totals	...	...	...	...	333	9

NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The prevalence of non-notifiable Infectious Diseases is estimated from the weekly returns of the Head Teachers of the Schools. These returns for the year show that there were 33 cases of Chicken Pox, 111 of Mumps, 3 of German Measles, 1 of Influenza and 1 of Impetigo.

AGE AT DATE OF NOTIFICATION.

Age	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Meningococcal Infection	Measles	Whooping Cough	Erysipelas	Acute Poliomyelitis	Food Poisoning	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Dysentery
Under 1	—	—	—	—	—	4	5	—	—	—	—	—
1 and under 2	—	—	—	—	—	13	3	—	—	—	—	—
2 „ „ 3	1	—	—	—	—	25	2	—	—	—	—	—
3 „ „ 4	—	—	—	—	—	21	4	—	—	—	—	—
4 „ „ 5	1	—	—	—	—	34	1	—	—	—	—	—
5 „ „ 10	12	—	—	2	—	167	13	—	—	—	—	—
10 „ „ 15	—	—	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 „ „ 20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
20 „ „ 35	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	—	—
35 „ „ 45	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 „ „ 65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	14	—	1	6	—	277	28	—	5	2	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	New Cases.					Deaths.				
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Totals	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Totals
	Totals	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 and under 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 " " 10	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
10 " " 15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 " " 20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 " " 25	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
25 " " 35	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 " " 45	4	1	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
45 " " 55	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 " " 65	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	4	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	*13	6	5	—	2	1	1	—	—	—

* Included in this total are five transfers from the mainland.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Notified.	Cases.		Vision un- impaired.	Vision impaired.	Total Blindness.	Death.
	Treated.					
	At home	In hospital.				
—	—	—	—	—	—	—

CAUSES OF DEATH.

<i>Cause.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	—
Tuberculosis, other	—	—
Syphilitic disease	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—
Meningococcal infections	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
Measles	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	—	—
Malignant neoplasin, stomach	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	6	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	3
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	4
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	15	16
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	—
Diabetes	—	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	14	16
Coronary disease, angina	17	12
Hypertension with heart disease	2	6
Other heart disease	19	23
Other circulatory disease	7	5
Influenza	—	—
Pneumonia	3	4
Bronchitis	5	3
Other diseases of respiratory system ...	4	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	—	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—
Congenital malformations	1	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	12	11
Motor vehicle accidents	2	1
All other accidents	1	2
Suicide	1	—
Homicide and operations of war	—	—
All causes	116	116

